

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 271536Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 122519

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE SECDEF INFO NEW DELHI
PORI LOUIS CANBERRA DTG R 201551Z MAY 75 FM LONDON

QUOTE

SECRET LONDON 07618

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, XO, UK, US

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN MAY 19
I NOTED THAT A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON DEIGO
GARCIA HAD BEEN SENT TO THE CONGRESS. WE WERE AWARE OF
THE BRITISH VIEW ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF TALKS WITH THE
SOVIETS ABOUT ARMS CONTROL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND I
THEREFORE WANTED TO EXPLAIN THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW
THAT WE SHOULD PRESENT THE MATTER TO THE CONGRESS BEFORE
ENTERTAINING THE IDEA OF TALKS WITH THE RUSSIANS. THE
ADMINISTRATION FELT THAT IN THE POST-VIETNAM ATMOSPHERE
IT WAS UNDESIRABLE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO
THE RUSSIANS. DCM NOTED THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS
THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE ON DIEGO GARCIA MIGHT BE
CHANGING.

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2. CALLAGHAN SAID HE HOPED THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE BRITISH POSITION. THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED THE US TO HOLD UP THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION UNTIL WE HAD MADE AN APPROACH TO THE RUSSIANS. IN HIS VIEW THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE /PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION SHOULD NOT GO FORWARD IN PARALLEL WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS. INDICATING THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE JAMAICA COMMONWEALTH MEETING, CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE COULD COPE WITH PRESSURES FROM THE AUSTRALIANS WHO HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED ARMS LIMITATION INITIATIVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO SEE THE US GET INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF LIMITATION WITH THE USSR SAY ON "SHIP DAYS" THE CONCERNS OF THE COUNTRIES AROUND THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD BE EASED. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT RAMGOOLAM AND MRS. GANDHI HAD PRIVATELY INDICATED THAT SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE HELPFUL, AND THEY INDICATED THAT THEY APPRECIATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN NOT BEING UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NAVY OF ONE COUNTRY.

RICHARDSON
UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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